

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKARTA 06554 200537Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 INR-07 L-03 /027 W
-----200551Z 097017/11

R 200201Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1196

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 6554

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, ID
SUBJECT: DOMSAT

REF: JAKARTA 3105 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS THAT THOMAS CHEATHAM VISITED INDONESIA MAY 2-4. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE JOURNEY WAS AT THE GOI'S REQUEST OR ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. HE DID NOT CONTACT EMBASSY. DURING HIS STAY, CHEATHAM MET PRIVATELY WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ALIM TO WHOM HE HAD PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN STATING THAT HE HAD "NEVER ACCUSED HUGHES OR INDONESIA OF CORRUPTION." IN THE LETTER TO SALIM HE HAD ALSO ENCLOSED AN APRIL 5 LETTER TO THE "NEW YORK TIMES" IN WHICH HE DENIED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH HAVING MADE THE CHARGES HERSH ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. (EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF THESE TWO LETTERS, AS WELL AS ONE FROM CHEATHAM TO HUGHES, FROM LOCAL HUGHES REP AND WILL POUCH COPIES TO EA/IMS.)

2. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS LAWYER TOLD US THAT SALIM URGED CHEATHAM TO PUBLICIZE HIS LETTER TO THE "TIMES." CHEATHAM REPORTEDLY AGREED TO DO THIS. LAWYER SAID GOI HAD NO PLANS TO PUBLICIZE LETTER HERE, IMPLYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE GOI DID NOT WISH TO STIR THINGS UP NOW THAT THE PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER THE CASE HAD DIED DOWN. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOI WAS NO LONGER CONSIDERING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE NYTIMES. DECISION TO ABANDON LAW SUIT WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE ADVICE OF AMERICAN LAWYERS WHO WERE IN JAKARTA ON OTHER BUSINESS AT THE TIME GOI WAS CASTING ABOUT FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND WHOM WE RECOMMENDED

MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE.

3. ASKED WHERE THE MATTER STOOD, THE LAWYER SAID THE GOI HAD NOW HEARD FROM "ALL SOURCES" INVOLVED IN THE CASE. ASKED IF THIS MEANT THE GOI STILL PLANNED SOME SORT OF ACTION OR WHETHER IT NOW INTENDED TO CLOSE THE BOOKS, HE REPLIED ONLY THAT THE OPTIONS WERE BEING KEPT OPEN. WHEN PRESSED, HE SAID HIS "PERSONAL" OPINION WAS THAT THE GOI PROBABLY WOULD TAKE NO FURTHER PUBLIC ACTION. THE LAWYER DID NOT KNOW IF CHEATHAM PLANNED TO RETURN TO INDONESIA BUT WAS INCLINED TO THINK HE WOULD NOT.

4. LOCAL HUGHES REP DID NOT MEET THEATHAM DURING THE LATTER'S STAY IN JAKARTA BUT HAD BEEN AWARE OF HIS VISIT. HE BELIEVES CHEATHAM LETTER PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCH ON THE VINDICATION OF HIS COMPANY AND SAYS THAT AS FAR AS HUGHES IS CONCERNED THE MATTER IS FINISHED. HE ALSO AGREES THAT THE GOI IS UNLIKELY TO RESURRECT THE CASE.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, CORRUPTION, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770537/aaaabffh.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c2e408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2440696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOMSAT
TAGS: EFIN, ID, (CHEATHAM, THOMAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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